

Message Text

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13R-11
ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 H-03 ONY-00 SSO-00 /011 W
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O P 110952Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6854
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RANGOON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL UDORN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1925

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (MANSFIELD, MICHAEL J.)
SUBJECT: CODEL MANSFIELD VISIT TO LAOS

REF STATE 198618

1. I LOOK FORWARD TO VISIT OF CODEL MANSFIELD TO LAOS
AND CORDIALLY INVITE SENATOR AND MESSRS. VALEO AND
JONES TO STAY AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE, WHICH HAS THREE
SEPARATE EXTRA BEDROOMS AND BATHS. BEST HOTEL IN TOWN,
LANE XANG, IS RATHER LOOMY.

2. CONTROL OFFICERS FOR VISIT WILL BE JERE BROH-KAHN,
FSO-4, CHIEF OF POLITICAL SECTION, AND EDMUND
MCWILLIAMS, FSO-6, POLITICAL OFFICER.

3. ASSUME CODEL MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED NECESS-
ARY LAO VISAS IN WASHINGTON. OTHERWISE, THEY WILL HAVE
TO BE OBTAINED IN BANGKOK WHICH MAY TAKE SEVERAL DAYS.

4. WE HAVE APPROACHED LAO CHIEF OF PROTOCOL REGARDING
APPOINTMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTS LEADERS.
FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH HAS ALREADY LEFT
FOR NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO AND WILL REMAIN
THERE NEXT WEEK DURING TIME CODEL WILL BE IN SOUTHEAST
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ASIA. WE HAVE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CALL ON RANKING

DEPUTY MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS, KHAMPHAY BOUPHA, OR OTHER DEPUTY, NOUPHAN SITHPASAY. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL REPLIED HE WOULD CHECK. WE ASKED WHAT OTHER CALLS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF DEPUTY PRIMIN AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, WHO WAS FOREIGN MINISTER UNDER PREVIOUS COALITION GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT SOUPHANOUVONG WILL BE IN COLOMBO DURING VISIT, AND WE DO NOT RECOMMZN REQUESTING CALLS ON PRIMIN SECRETARY GENERAL KAYSONE OR RANKING DEPUTY PRIMPK NOUHAK, WHO WE BELIEVE WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO RESPOND TO A REQUEST FOR AN APPOINTMENT. NEVERTHELESS WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SUGGESTIONS CODEL HAS REGARDING ANY OF THE ABOVE OR OTHER LAO LEADERS IT MAY WISH TO MEET.

5. ASSUME FROM SCHEDULE REFTEL THAT CODEL PLANS TO MAKE SIDE TRIPS TO BOTH VIENTIANE AND RANGOON DURING PERIOD FROM MONDAY, AUGUST 16, TO FRIDAY, AUGUST 20 WHEN IT WILL BE IN BANGKOK. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS IN GETTING TO AND FROM LAOS. FLIGHTS ARRIVE HERE FROM BANGKOK ONLY ON SUNDAY, MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AFTERNOONS BY THAI AIRWAYS AND RETURN SAME AFTERNOON. THIS MEANS VPDEL COULD FLY UP WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AND BACK FRIDAY AFTERNOON, BUT LATTER WOULD NOT BE IN TIME TO CATCH CONNECTING FLIGHT FROM BANGKOK TO HONG KONG AS SCHEDULED. OR CODEL COULD FLY UP MONDAY AND BACK WEDNESDAY BUT THAT WOULD LEAVE ONLY ONE FULL DAY THURSDAY FOR BOTH BANGKOK AND RANGOON.

6. THERE ARE ALSO AEROFLOT FLIGHTS FROM VIENTIANE TO RANGOON AND FROM RANGOON TO VIENTIANE ON THURSDAY AFTERNOONS. ALTERNATIVELY, CODEL COULD TAKE OVERNIGHT TRAIN FROM BANGKOK TO NONGKHAI, WHERE WE COULD MEET TO BRING ACROSS MEKONG RIVER TO VIENTIANE, AND COULD ALSO RETURN BY SAME ROUTE. OR CODEL COULD FLY THAI AIRWAYS TO UDORN, TAKE CONSULATE CAR TO NONGKAHI, AND CROSS RIVER TO VIENTIANE, AND COULD ALSO RETURN BY THAT ROUTE.

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7. BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS OF TRANSPORTATION OUTLINED ABOVE, RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY BANGKOK SCHEDULE TRAVEL FROM THERE TO VIENTIANE AND BACK TO COORDINATE WITH TIMING OF TRIP TO RANGOON.
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